

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 12 being independent. Claims 2, 11 and 13-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 3-10 and 12 have been amended herein.

Initially, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 6, 2001, and indicate such consideration by initialing and returning a copy of the Form PTO-1449 provided therewith. A copy of that form is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-28 are in condition for allowance. Of those claims, Claims 1, 3-10 and 12 remain pending in the application, and each of those claims has been amended herein. Nevertheless, the changes to the claims are not believed to affect the allowability of the claims. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-10 and 12 are believed to remain in condition for allowance, notwithstanding the reasons set forth in the statement of reasons for allowance in the Office Action.

Claim 33 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 33 has been cancelled herein, thus rendering this objection moot.

Claims 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Since these claims have also been cancelled without prejudice, the § 101 rejection is also deemed moot.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and a Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

MAW/agm

DC_MAIN 220523v1